

DC plane crash ends 16-year stretch of US airline safety

BY ROSMERY IZAGUIRRE | 02/03/2025

On Jan. 29, a passenger jet collided with a U.S. Army helicopter near Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, the first U.S. airline crash to kill passengers in nearly 16 years. This most recent accident came after a 2023 spike in runway near-misses at U.S. airports. The last U.S. airline crash with passenger deaths occurred in 2009 near Buffalo, New York.

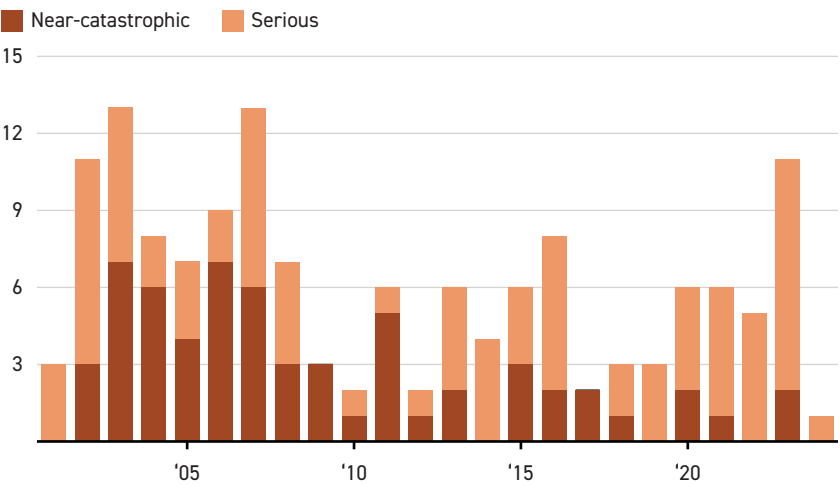
Since 9/11, there have been 7 deadly US airline crashes

U.S. AIRLINE CRASHES INVOLVING PASSENGER FATALITIES

Date	Location	Operator	Passenger fatalities
Jan. 29, 2025	Washington, D.C.	American Airlines	60
Feb. 12, 2009	Clarence, N.Y.	Colgan Air	45
Aug. 27, 2006	Lexington, Ky.	Comair	47
Dec. 19, 2005	Miami	Chalks Ocean Airways	18
Oct. 19, 2004	Kirksville, Mo.	Corporate Airlines	11
Jan. 8, 2003	Charlotte, N.C.	US Airways Express	19
Nov. 12, 2001	Queens, N.Y.	American Airlines	251
Sept. 11, 2001	Shanksville, Pa.	United Airlines	37
Sept. 11, 2001	Arlington, Va.	American Airlines	58
Sept. 11, 2001	New York City	United Airlines	56
Sept. 11, 2001	New York City	American Airlines	81

Runway close calls reached a recent peak in 2023

RUNWAY NEAR-COLLISIONS INVOLVING COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT

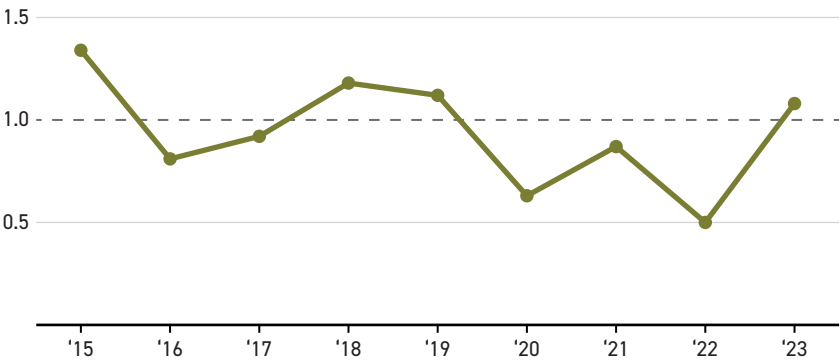


Army flight accident fatalities in fiscal 2023 were the most since end of Mideast wars

The Army aircraft involved in the collision, a Sikorsky UH-60 Black Hawk, was conducting a training mission, according to Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth. According to an annual Army safety report, fiscal 2023 showed a higher rate of Class A incidents than recent years prior and the highest fatalities since fiscal 2010. An Army Class A mishap is defined as an incident where the total cost of property damage is over \$2.5 million; the manned aircraft is missing, destroyed, or abandoned; or there is a death or permanent disability.

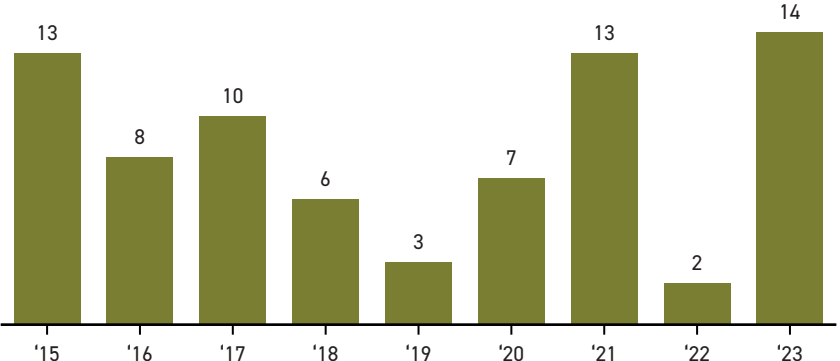
2023 Class A flight mishap rate rose above 1.0 for the first time since 2019

CLASS A ARMY FLIGHT MISHAPS PER 100K FLIGHT HOURS, BY FISCAL YEAR



Army flight mishaps reached 14 in 2023, the highest since 2010

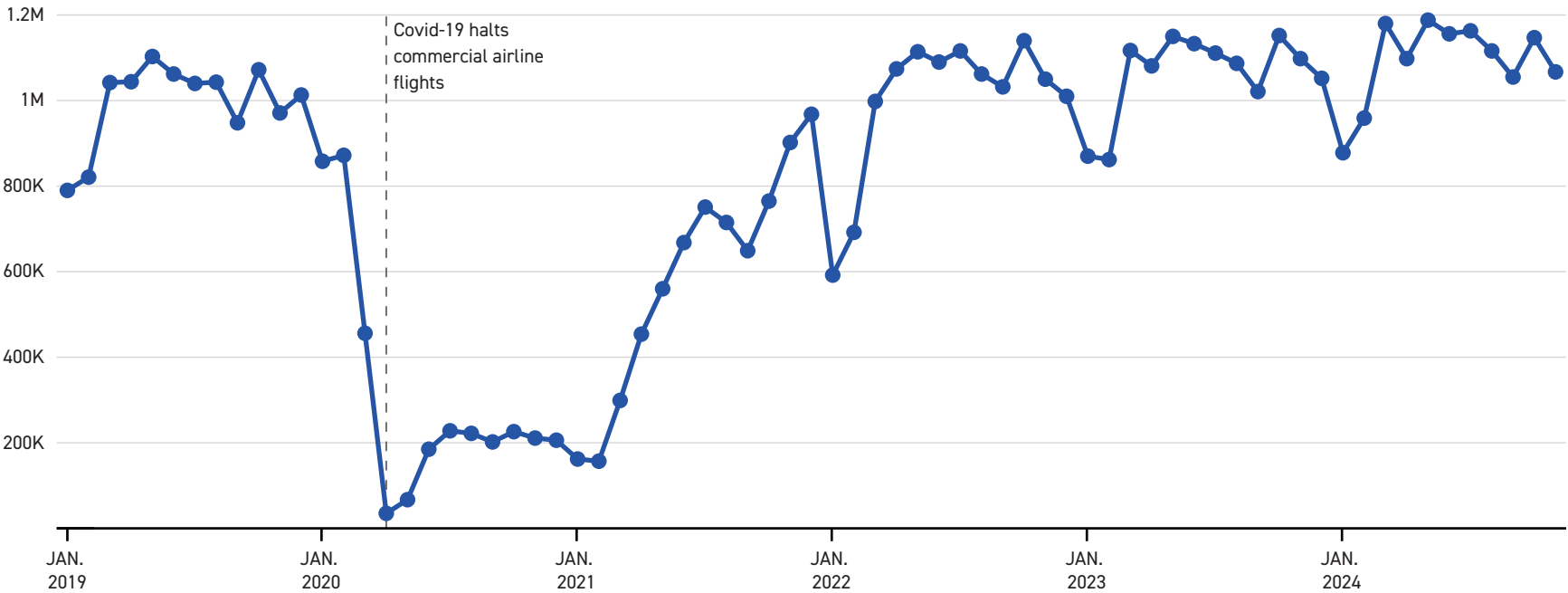
ARMY FATALITIES FROM FLIGHT MISHAPS, BY FISCAL YEAR



Reagan National had busiest year in 2024

The accident came less than a year after Congress passed an FAA reauthorization bill that expanded long-haul flights to Reagan National Airport. Opponents of the legislation warned of safety concerns with adding more flight slots to the already crowded airport. According to the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, 2023 was the busiest year on record for Reagan National; its most recent data shows that 2024 was on track to be even busier.

MONTHLY COMMERCIAL PASSENGER ENPLANEMENTS AT RONALD REAGAN WASHINGTON NATIONAL AIRPORT



Source: Federal Aviation Administration, National Transportation Safety Board, U.S. Army, Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority